

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04727 081158Z

50

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 OMB-01

USIA-06 L-03 NSCE-00 SAM-01 /073 W

----- 087838

R 080855Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4704

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LA, PFOR, PINT, CH, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET PERSPECTIVE ON EVENTS IN LAOS

1. THE SOVIET CHARGE CHMANEVSKI CAME TO RESIDENCE AT HIS REQUEST SUNDAY AFTERNOON AND OVER WHISKEY AND VODKA SPENT AN HOUR AND THREE QUARTERS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE. CHMANEVSKI'S SINGLE, CLEAR MESSAGE WAS THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) WANTED US TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH LAOS (AND INFERENTIALLY SO DID USSR). HE DID REPEAT "PATRIOTIC FRONT'S" VIEWS THAT FRONT HOLDS US RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR; FRONT SUFFERED VERY MUCH; AND AS A CONSEQUENCE CONSIDERS US HAS OBLIGATION "TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR," AS AGREED UPON IN PARIS AGREEMENT. IN CONTEXT OF CONVERSATION, HOWEVER, TWO ISSUES OF RELATIONS AND AID DID NOT APPEAR TO BE AS CLOSELY WELDED TOGETHER AS THEY ARE GENERALLY.

2. CHMANEVSKI DID PROBE REPEATEDLY US INTENTIONS REGARDING AID. CHARGE COUNTERED STEADILY BY VARIANTS ON THEME THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04727 081158Z

EVENTS OF PAST THREE MONTHS HAD NOT CREATED VERY PROPITIOUS

ATMOSPHERE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND INDEED HAD CREATED UNFORTUNATE IMPRESSION IN US. FUTURE AID WOULD HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF FUTURE RELATIONS.

3. THIS SUBJECT GAVE CHARGE OPPORTUNITY TO GO OVER SOME OF OUR DIFFICULTIES, MOST NOTABLY THE CONTINUING OCCUPATION OF TWO EMBASSY COMPOUNDS BY "DEMONSTRATORS" AND POLICE. CHMANEVSKI WAS SYMPATHETIC WITH OUR PROBLEMS BUT URGED US TO BE PATIENT. (EVERYONE IN TOWN IS URGING US TO BE PATIENT.) HE SAID EVERYTHING WILL SETTLE DOWN SOON. LPF RECOGNIZES THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EXCESSES BUT IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY "LOCAL INITIATIVES." THERE HAS (OF COURSE) BEEN CHINESE INVOLVEMENT IN ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES. (CHARGE COULD NOT PIN HIM DOWN ON BEING MORE PRECISE BEYOND THE KNOWN FACT THAT PRC EMBASSY HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE WITH CHINESE COMMUNITY. CHMANEVSKI NEVERTHELESS REVEALED SOVIET CONCERN THAT THROUGH THESE COMMUNITIES, PRC HAS A POWER BASE IN EVERY SEA COUNTRY.)

4. CHARGE SPECULATED ON DIFFICULTIES WHICH WILL CONFRONT PGNU BY ELIMINATION AND EMIGRATION OF MANY OF BETTER TRAINED PEOPLE, AND WONDERED WHETHER SOVIETS HAD BEEN APPROACHED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. CHMANEVSKI WAS EVASIVE, REPLYING ONLY THAT OF COURSE THEY WOULD BRING IN EXPERTS IN FIELDS SUCH AS GEOLOGY, MINING. HE WAS HOWEVER POSITIVE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BRING ANYONE IN FINANCE; THIS WAS FIELD IN WHICH LAO WOULD HAVE TO MAKE OWN DECISIONS. (HE PROBED OUR POSITION ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS FUND -- FEOF. CHARGE WAS EVASIVE AND ANSWERED THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO SIGN AGREEMENT ON BASIS OF \$5 MILLION ALREADY PROVIDED, AND POINTED OUT THAT, AMONG OTHER FACTORS, PGNU HAD IN EFFECT DENOUNCED 1951 ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WHICH WAS BASIS OF ALL OUR AID. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT BOTH SOVIETS AND CHINESE MAY BE NERVOUS REGARDING THE LAO FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEM, FEARING THAT PGNU MIGHT TURN TO THEM FOR THE REAL STUFF. THEY HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT PROVIDE THAT SORT OF ASSISTANCE.)

5. AMONG OTHER TIDBITS GLEANED, CHMANEVSKI MENTIONED THAT OFFICIAL VISIT OF KING ACCOMPANIED BY SOUVANNA TO FRANCE WAS NOW SET FOR BEGINNING SEPTEMBER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 04727 081158Z

AND VISIT TO MOSCOW WOULD FOLLOW TOWARDS END OF SEPTEMBER AFTER KING HAD FIRST RETURNED TO LAOS. (HE DID NOT HAVE SPECIFIC DATES YET.) THERE WILL ALSO BE OFFICIAL ROYAL VISIT TO PEKING AFTER THAT.

6. AS REGARDS FONMIN PHOUMI'S TRAVELS, CHMANEVSKI SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY INDICATED THAT PHOUMI WOULD BE LEAVING FOR HANOI (HE LEFT JULY 7) AND THEN PROCEED BY TRAIN TO PEKING WHERE

HE WOULD REST. DOCTORS HAD RECOMMENDED HE NOT UNDERTAKE LONG FLIGHTS BY AIR AND THIS WAS REASON HE WAS NOT GOING TO MOSCOW WHERE HE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY TREATED.

7. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION, CHMANEVSKI REPEATED, AS HE HAS IN PAST, NEED FOR GOOD US-USSR RELATIONS IN WORLD AND IN LAOS.

8. COMMENT: CHMANEVSKI IS A DISCIPLINED PARTY MEMBER AND HEWS CLOSELY TO THE PARTY LINE. THIS CONVERSATION, WHICH SOVIET CHARGE SOUGHT, INDICATES, AS HAVE OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH ALL SOVIET OFFICIALS IN LAOS OVER PAST YEAR AND A HALF, A CONTINUING SOVIET DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH US AND FOR MAINTENANCE OF US PRESENCE IN LAOS, AS WELL AS AN ABIDING DISTRUST, BORDERING ON PARANOIA, OF THE CHINESE. CONVERSATION ALSO SEEMS TO CONFIRM OTHER INDICATIONS THAT CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS MADE DECISION TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH US. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.
CHAPMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI04727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750235-0342
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750775/aaaacpbu.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PERSPECTIVE ON EVENTS IN LAOS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LA, CH, UR, US, (CHMANEVSKI, IOURI K)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006